SELECTIONS

FROM THE

VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE

PUNJAB, NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES, OUDH,

AND THE

CENTRAL PROVINCES,

Received from the 15th to the 21st of April, 1869.

THE *Gwalior Gazette*, of the 4th of April, opens with news concerning the affairs and doings of the Gwalior Durbar. It is remarked that complaints have been made by the Naib Dewan concerning the delay and irregularity in sending in the papers connected with criminal and civil cases, notwithstanding the orders passed by the Maharajah on the subject. To the Malwa District this is especially applicable. It has been ordered that a report of each day's work be sent in daily through the Post-office, so that the only delay will be the time in transit, and this order is to be considered applicable to every case; &c., &c.

The orders passed by the Durbar concerning the scarcity of grain, directing visitations to be made, and the agents to assist the sufferers with food, and seed for sowing; repairing tanks, wells, &c., wherever such repairs are necessary; with a daily report of the work done; &c., &c., are noticed.

The *Kaleid Ummed* alludes to the amount of subscription collected for a memorial to Sir John Lawrence, which is said to be Rs. 12,000.

Allusion is made to the outrage in Burmah, where a pupil of Mr. Harik's (or Herrick's?) was decapitated by order of the King, for entering a place of worship with his shoes on. An ancient "*eedgah* is said to have been discovered at Cuttack.

It dates from the time of the Mogul reign, and was likely to fall into ruin, and to be levelled by order of the Magistrate; when some of the respectable Mussulmans objected to this; upon which they were told that if they wished to preserve it, they must always look after it, to which they agreed, and Rs. 3,000 were set aside for repairs;" &c. The writer goes on to say, that several respectable Mahomedans were appointed to carry on the collections, inspection; &c.; and that this year some 4,000 people collected at it on the occasion of the *Eed-ool-Fitr;* but that when the Moollahs saw this they became quite envious, and prayers were read by them in their own *eedgahs*.

Allusion is made to the charitable arrangements at Puttiala, where some 1,200 poor people are fed and clothed; "while there is no reckoning up those who have been appointed to various works and thus given employment."

The *Unjumun Hind*, of the 10th of April, after extracts from English papers, alludes to the Durbar at Umballa. The *Bombay Gazette* is quoted, to the effect that orders were passed by Government that two lakhs of rupees (£20,000) were to be expended at Lahore; and three lakhs (£30,000) at Umballa, in preparations to receive the Ameer Shere Ali Khan.

From Hyderabad it is learned, that the boy who has been placed on the throne of the Nizam is very beautiful. "Some fortune-teller told the dying Chief that for a certain time he should not see the face of this child. What a pity that this prohibition should have prevented the Chief from seeing the child, so that he passed away with the great desire buried in his heart."

The *Sadik-ool Ukhbar*, of the 10th of April, does not require special notice.

The *Julwatore*, of the 12th of April, after some matter of no importance, publishes Bokhara news, to the effect that there has been some fighting between the King and his eldest son. It is said, that the Prime Minister of Bokhara was "suddenly seized with a fit of covetousness, and desired to reign. He collected 40,000 troops, and wished to bring them against

the King. The King passed his own orders to his troops and the Russians, and the fight began, resulting in the defeat of the son; the Prime Minister fled precipitately."

Under the heading "Cabul," it is said that "a rumour prevails to the effect that an English army will return with the Ameer Shere Ali Khan to Cabul. The people are said to be anxiously on the look-out for the Ameer's return, when some worldly work will be put a stop to. The affairs of Turkistan are as they were, and especially those of Herat cause great anxiety to the Governor of Cabul. No one knows what the Sirdar Abdool Rhyman Khan is doing, or what he intends at once doing."

The *Karnama Hind*, of the 10th of April, notices the arrival at Lucknow of Hajee Hashum Navazee from Bombay, who stayed at the house of Ahmed Ali Sahib, Raees of Kakourie. This native gentleman is said to have come on a visit of pleasure

The *Nusseem Jounpoor* of the 13th of April, and the *Ukmil-ool Ukhbar* of the 14th, do not require particular notice.

The *Educational Gazette*, of the 10th of April, characterizes as an evil custom that one so prevalent in Calcutta of throwing sick people on the banks of the river, and leaving them there to die. The writer proceeds to say:—"What a most cruel custom is this: to our thinking, people who thus kill living human beings ought to be punished as murderers. One day, the Inspector of Police took up a woman so deserted from the bank of the river, and sent her to the hospital, where in the course of a month she recovered, and went to her home; but her relations, looking upon her as a devil, would not allow her to enter their houses, and the poor woman in despair went and lived somewhere else."

It is said that the Baboo Bunwaree Lall of Chuprah has made over a lakh of rupees to Government for the purpose of defraying the cost of building a masonry serai (native hotel): "the money has been placed in the hands of the Municipal Committee for the purpose."

The *Sholatore* of the 13th of April, and the *Rohilkhund Ukhbar* of the 10th, do not demand particular notice.

The latter paper mentions that during the recent tour of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, North-Western Provinces, Etah was visited. His Honor is said to have remarked that the district was very small, and suggested that the Tehseels of Mustufabad and Juleysur should be added to it; the district officer has consequently sent up the requisite measures for sanction, and the writer is hopeful that they will be carried out.

The *Oudh Ukhbar*, of the 13th of April, publishes the following under the heading "Loodiana:"—"A friend writes thus, with feelings of regret, on the visit of the Ameer of Cabul:—'It is not known by what means, or for what reason, on the part of the powers that be, there was so much want of ceremony prevailing. Of course the house itself was nice and clean, but the carpet was composed of strips of tât (coarse hempen cloth), and bedsteads were given only to the nobles, who had to hire or borrow bedding, coverlids, &c., &c. People from an icy cold climate were deemed sufficiently well served with the hot winds of this country. In eating, repletion was considered a bit of extravagance; what shall we say to it? The indigestion suffered in other places was cured by want of excess here, as the plain food furnished put all to rights; and this saying, in connection with the Ameer Sahib and his nobles, was understood to be correct, 'The appreciation of health and comfort he alone knows who falls into distress and difficulty.' We feel ashamed to mention this, and to ask who the gentleman was who arranged for this most perfect management. It is also said by some that this house was all in keeping. Some say and think that these arrangements were not without some reason.'"

The supposed treaty between the Government and the Ameer is noticed. It is said to be as follows:—

"1*st*,—The British Government agrees to give (so long as the Ameer Sahib keeps on the best of terms with it) a lakh of rupees (£ 10,000) per month.

"2*nd*,—The Ameer Sahib forms alliance, and binds himself to send a receipt for this sum every month.

"3*rd*,—The Viceroy of Hind, with the greatest pleasure, makes known on the part of the Queen of Great Britain and India, her desire that the country of the Ameer Sahib should remain in virtue, peace, and integrity.

"4*th*,—The Ameer Sahib agrees, without hindrance or impediment, to recognize the following countries taken, *viz.*, Europe, Asia, Africa, America, Australia, and Polynesia.

"5*th*,—The Ameer of Cabul makes a vow to allow without any hindrance all articles of English manufacture and trade in all his dominions, save soap.

"6*th*,—The Ameer of Cabul promises that he will keep his eyes open against the Russians;" &c. &c. (This appears to be a squib copied from some English paper).

Under the heading "Umballa" the following appears:—"Now-a-days Umballa is not only the place which attracts all hearts, but in Tashkhund, Samarkhund, Bokhara, Cabul, Yarkhund, &c., all ears are bent in this direction, because the affairs of the civil administration of the country will be here brought forward;" &c. The writer alludes to the assembling of the Supreme Council, and the programme of the ceremonies to be observed at Umballa during the meeting of his Excelleney the Viceroy and Ameer Shere Ali Khan.

The *Mujma-ool Bharain* of the 15th April does not call for special notice.

The *Khair Khwah Punjab*, of the 16th of April, after much that is only extracts from other sources, mentions the discovery of some ancient weapon at Jubbulpoor. This weapon was, it is said, dug up from the earth; is between a sword and a dagger; very sharp; and is made of such hard metal, that it cuts through iron, bone, &c., with ease. It is supposed to be at least 1000 years old, and is composed of a mixture of tin, pewter, and copper.

Referring to the Ameer Shere Ali of Cabul, the editor of this paper remarks :—"Without God, neither rank nor dignity is gained by strength of arm; no doubt the Ameer Shere Ali has received from Government the highest honours. In the twinkling of an eye, what was the Ameer, and what has he become? Strange are His ways. Call the Ameer what we will, the highest titles are befitting, and this is a token of the kindness and favour of our Government." The writer is of opinion that "the King of Zanzibar, who visited Bombay last year, did not receive one-tenth part of the honours and dignity bestowed upon the Ameer of Cabul, notwithstanding that he is an independent Sovereign. But in this country generally there may be seen such Rajahs and Maharajahs full of power and independent. Moreover, before the Mutiny there were many wealthy and glorious Kings, who although they did not rule over their countries, and although their income was not so great as that of the Ameer of Cabul, and although so much greatness and magnificence are not shown them in this country as the Ameer has in Cabul, still, in the old and broken ships of the Hindoostanee States at the present time, the Chiefs of Hind, whose rank, pomp, and state may be things to wonder at, and we feel inclined to ask, 'Do we see them in a dream or in reality.' There is this much difference, that if Hindoostanee Chiefs rule, they rule over men, while the *Ameer-ool-Amara*, Cabul, is a *furman furma* (executing commands). At this time, too, by the blessing of God, all the dignity, rank, and splendour, which the Maharajah of Cashmere, the Maharajah of Gwalior, and the Nawab Nazim-ool-Moolk, of Hyderabad, Deccan, and the same generosity, worth, and ambition, &c., they possess, is shared by the Ameer Meer Ali Morad Khan of Khairpoor, Scinde, the Nawab of Rampoor, the Chief of Bulrampoor, &c., &c. But the Government of Cabul, especially when riches increase, rises, and we are obliged to say, 'My heart alone knows.' Well, be it so; what have we to do with such tales? This Ameer Shere Ali is, after all, the son of that Dost Mahomed Khan of Affghanistan, who at one time received food from this very Government at Loodiana! *Allah! Allah!* in one wink thou canst shower blessings. In Umballa,

this same Shere Ali Khan was the *Ameer-ool-Amara Bahadoor*, who was at one time with his father sight-seeing at Loodiana; &c. But that is nothing: only last year, in the private disturbances in Cabul, this very Ameer Sahib might have been counting the stars at night;" &c., &c.

There is a supplement to this paper, containing only one sheet of extracts from other papers.

The *Oordoo Delhi Gazette*, of the 17th of April, contains Cabul news from the English papers. Under the heading "Presentation," it is said that on the 2nd of the present month, the Nawab Syud Mahomed Ali Shah of Sirdhana presented the Ameer of Cabul with an elephant and trappings, valued at Rs. 7,000; an Arab horse, Rs. 1,500; a Katiawar ditto, Rs. 800; 15 trays of gifts, valuable guns, musical boxes, &c., &c.; and the Nawab feasted the Ameer on the 4th of April.

The *Malwa Ukhbar* of the 14th of April does not call for particular notice.

The *Noor-ool Ubsar*, of the 15th of April, notices the attempt of some prisoners to escape from the police when proceeding down the East India Railway line towards Allahabad, and also the gallant conduct of the constables in charge of them. The writer hopes that the police will be rewarded for their good and brave conduct.

The *Ukhbar Alum* of the 15th of April does not call for particular notice.

The *Lawrence Gazette*, of the 17th of April, offers some comments on the difference of education in England and Hindoostan. It is said that the manner of teaching the native students the English language is very different to the way it is taught in England, because the English language has become foreign, like the German language in England. "The custom in England is, when any foreign languages are spoken or taught, the *sarfonahu* (grammar) is generally in English; by which one great benefit is gained, *viz.*, that the stu-

dents compare the translation of their own language with that of others, and thus find it easy to them. But independent of this, the system of teaching English in Hindoostan is quite different from that of England; and although the native students acquire whole sentences in English, still they do not understand one-tenth of what they are taught. We do not wish to condemn the students, because it is not their fault; the fault is, that grammar is seldom observed in the Hindoostanee language; and if it is, such books in which English is clearly translated are not forthcoming; or even if they can be found, they cannot excel the works of Dr. Arnold;" &c. The writer proceeds to say, that "the use of the English language in Hindoostan is like the French language in France; and that the attainment of knowledge to the mind is like food to the body; because it is clear, that when food does not digest, the body is not strengthened; and in the same way, until the student quite understands his learning, his knowledge is deficient." The editor recommends that the general grammar be translated into Oordoo, and taught to the English readers in Hindoostan.

Under the heading "Tonk," it is stated on the authority of a correspondent, that "sanction has been given by the Governor-General's Agent in Rajpootana, through the Assistant Agent to the Governor-General, Rajistan, for the Nawab Mahomed Abdool Kurreem Khan to go to Tonk, and the letter of Mahomed Ibrahim Ali Khan, Chief of Tonk, has also reached the Nawab Sahib. We are sure, that when some one from the State will go to fetch him, the Nawab Sahib will come."

The *Meerut Gazette* of the 17th of April does not require particular attention.

The *Allygurh Institute Gazette*, of the 16th of April, hears "that the efforts of the Agent of Rajpootana to discover and collect valuable Sunskrit works have been successful. The Pundit whom he deputed on this duty has found 150 rare

books in the library of the Rajah of Jodhpoor. Among the literary treasure much is hoped from a history of Ancient India, written some 300 years ago." The writer enquires why an effort is not made to recover the many valuable Persian and Arabic treatises that once were familiar in India? "Even the books required by Yakoob Khush Begi cannot be procured."

This paper publishes the proceedings of the Coel Municipal Committee at a meeting held on the 29th of January, 1869; also the rules and bye-laws of the Coel Municipality under Act VI. of 1868, and the proceedings of the Coel Municipal Committee held on the 10th of February, 1869.

The *Naiyar Akbar*, after extracts from other papers, mentions that the Maharajah of Gwalior, accompanied by five or six of his people, goes about his country and relieves those who are in distressed circumstances, until there is not one left who has anything to complain of. The writer thinks that the Maharajah's unostentatious display when travelling about, and the few people he takes with him, is very considerate, as if he took a large retinue with him, his people would be much distressed. It is added, that in consideration of this assistance to his people, the Government has sent a letter of thanks to the Maharajah.

The *Nujm-ool Ukhbar*, of the 14th of April, complains of the new tax levied on the *kurbani* (sacrifice), and says that it has been brought into force at Meerut. The writer says:—"It was an established rule that all religious customs should be exempt from taxation, and such is the earnest desire of our Government. But, notwithstanding this, the tax has been realized. If this was necessary, why was it not done in regard to *beoparees* (brokers), who brought in cattle? Had they been taxed, all would have been right, but why has the *kurbani* been specially selected? we cannot say how this has happened, and why the City Committee did not look to it. Whatever is wrong has been made known; let any one hear it or not as best pleases them."

The *Naiyar Akbar*, of the 15th of April, after extracts from other papers, alludes to Cabul news "received from the *go-mashtas* of Cabulee merchants in Bokhara." It is said that Sirdar Sikunder Khan, Commander-in-Chief of the Bokhara army, who was taken prisoner by the Russians, is likely to be released on the petition sent by the King of Bokhara to the Russian Chief. The writer thinks it "likely that the Russians will grant the petition, as they are, now-a-days, very desirous of pleasing the King." The writer proceeds:—"One day the King went out, and near the city he observed a ruined fort; he asked the Russian agent why the fort had been destroyed, and learned that it had been demolished by his own orders, but that now it would be repaired. According to orders, all articles that go from Hindoostan to Bokhara will be subject to a new tax, in order that this fort shall be repaired; and it is said that on this account the Russians have asked for a loan from the merchants of Bokhara. In the battle of Samarkhund, it is reported that some 9,000 lives were lost, taking Russians and Bokharees: the result of other battles is not stated."

Allusion is made to a marble statue of the Queen, said to have been ordered by the Guickowar for Bombay, at a cost of one lakh and fifty thousand rupees (£15,000).

The *Koh-i-Noor*, of the 17th of April, does not require particular notice. The letters of the Commissioner of Jullunder to the Extra Assistants Syud Hadee Hossein and Sirdar Yar Mahomed Khan, of Jullunder and Hosheearpoor, concerning the reception, &c., of the Ameer, are noticed.

The *Moofeed-ool Anam* of the 15th of April, the *Rahnoomai Punjab* of the 16th, the *Zea-ool Ukhbar* of the 20th, and the *Rafa Khaliack* of the 1st and the 15th of February and the 1st and 15th of March (all 4 received under one cover), do not contain anything but stale intelligence.

The *Benares Ukhbar*, of the 15th of April, alludes to the income derived from *choongee* (town dues). The writer

says, that he has "before alluded to the fact that the income derived from the *choongee* is daily becoming less: although the tax removed from English goods was most displeasing, we ought to reflect on it, because we can do something for it. Now we ought to think of that which will benefit us. It is said that at one time a project was entertained by the Municipal Committee to tax all closed gates; but it was not carried out, because, when the *choongee* tax was imposed, it was arranged that the gate tax should not be levied. To our thinking, this tax ought to be levied, and what was resolved upon by the Committee was most beneficial. To say that because it was once rescinded, and therefore should not now be taken, is all nonsense; because, on the *choongee* tax being introduced, many articles were exempted from taxation; and therefore there would be nothing strange in making up in other ways. We ought to consider how the Government brought the license tax into operation, in order that the income might be equal to the expenditure; and when it was introduced, the Government promised that it should not be repeated; but now this tax has been introduced; and in the same way the gate tax would be a good thing."

Under the heading "A Great Wonder," it is said that the Chinese are marrying into European families, and becoming Christians (this is in California). It is said that the title of "Nawabee" will be bestowed upon Ameer Akber Ali Khan of Nizam-ool-Moolk, who received the title of Khan Bahadoor, for the assistance rendered to the British Government in the Abyssinian war. It is not stated whether a *jagheer* (estate) will accompany the title.

The King of Burmah is said to have strengthened himself in evil ways, and put aside all religious observances.

The cleanly state of the city of Benares is noticed, and is said to be due to the exertions of the Magistrate. "But on the borders of the Burna, where the European residences are, the water is said to be very bad, owing to the dead

bodies about there." The writer urges, that if people could be prevented from leaving their dead exposed, it would result in great and general benefit.

The following vernacular newspapers have been examined in this Report, *viz*:—

No.	Name of Paper.	Where Published.	Date.	When Received.
			1869.	1869.
1	*Gwalior Gazette*, ...	Gwalior, ...	April 4th	April 15th
2	*Kaleid Ummed*, ...	Lahore, ...	„ 10th	„ 15th
3	*Unjumun Hind*, ...	Lucknow, ...	„ 10th	„ 15th
4	*Sadiq-ool Ukhbar*, ...	Bhawulpoor, ...	„ 10th	„ 15th
5	*Julwatore*, ...	Meerut, ...	„ 12th	„ 15th
6	*Karnama Hind*, ...	Lucknow, ...	„ 12th	„ 16th
7	*Nusseem Jounpoor*, ...	Jounpoor, ...	„ 13th	„ 16th
8	*Ukmil-ool Ukhbar*, ...	Delhi, ...	„ 14th	„ 16th
9	*Educational Gazette*, ...	Agra, ...	„ 10th	„ 17th
10	*Sholatore*, ...	Cawnpoor, ...	„ 13th	„ 17th
11	*Rohilkhund Ukhbar*, ...	Moradabad, ...	„ 10th	„ 18th
12	*Oudh Ukhbar*, ...	Lucknow, ...	„ 13th	„ 18th
13	*Mujma-ool Bharain*, ...	Loodiana, ...	„ 15th	„ 18th
14	*Khair Khwah Punjab*, ...	Goojranwalla,	„ 16th	„ 18th
15	*Oordoo Delhi Gazette*, ...	Agra, ...	„ 17th	„ 18th
16	*Malwa Ukhbar*, ...	Indore, ...	„ 14th	„ 19th
17	*Noor-ool Ubsar*, ...	Allahabad, ...	„ 15th	„ 19th
18	*Ukhbar Alum*, ...	Meerut, ...	„ 15th	„ 19th
19	*Lawrence Gazette*, ...	Ditto, ...	„ 17th	„ 19th
20	*Meerut Gazette*, ...	Ditto, ...	„ 17th	„ 19th
21	*Allygurh Institute Gazette*,	Allygurh, ...	„ 16th	„ 19th
22	*Naiyar Akbar Ukhbar*, ...	Bijnour, ...	„ 8th	„ 20th
23	*Nujm-ool Ukhbar*, ...	Meerut, ...	„ 14th	„ 20th
24	*Naiyar Akbar Ukhbar*, ...	Bijnour, ...	„ 15th	„ 20th
25	*Koh-i-Noor*, ...	Lahore, ...	„ 17th	„ 20th
26	*Moofeed-ool Anam*, ...	Futtehgurh, ...	„ 15th	„ 21st
27	*Rahnoomai Punjab*, ...	Sealkote, ...	„ 16th	„ 21st
28	*Zea-ool Ukhbar*, ...	Delhi, ...	„ 20th	„ 21st
29	*Rafa Khalqack*, ...	Shajehanpoor, ...	Feb. 1st	„ 17th
30	*Ditto*, ...	Ditto, ...	„ 15th	„ 17th
31	*Ditto*, ...	Ditto, ...	March 1st	„ 17th
32	*Ditto*, ...	Ditto, ...	„ 15th	„ 17th
33	*Benares Ukhbar* (*Nagree*),	Benares, ...	April 15th	„ 19th

No copy of the *Murdhurmint* was received for this report.

(True translation.)

GEORGE WAGENTREIBER,

Government Reporter on the Vernacular Press,

Upper India.

DELHI:
The 1st *May*, 1869.